

Final Meeting Notes
LCR MSCP Steering Committee Meeting April 26, 2017
McCarran Airport, Mezzanine Rooms 2&3

Attending

| | | | |
|--------------------|------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Perri Benemelis | Becky Blasius | Vikki Bradshaw | Riva Churchill |
| Gil Cristobal | Jim DeVos | Jess Gwinn | Jayne Harkins |
| Christopher Harris | Chris Hayes | Michael Hulin | Genevieve Johnson |
| Vineetha Kartha | Jimmy Knowles | Bill Lamb | Kara Mathews |
| Terry Murphy | Jessica Neuwerth | Wade Noble | Sara Price |
| Sara Price | Peggy Roefer | Seth Shanahan | Laura Simonek |
| Jon Sjoberg | John Swett | Ruth Valencia | Laura Vecerina |
| David Vigil | Fred Worthley | | |

Attending Via Conference Call

Maureen George
Ned Hyduke
Laura Henning
Stevie Sharp
Linda Carbone
Christina Solemack
Carrie Ronning
Doyle Wilson
Bert Bell

1. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Introductions

The meeting convened at 9:30 a.m. by Chris Harris. There were self-introductions of all attending.

Review of Agenda

The agenda was reviewed and approved.

Public Comments

No public comments were offered.

Approve October 26, 2016 Meeting Notes

The October 26, 2016 Meeting Notes were approved. (Moved by Perri Benemelis seconded by Vineetha Kartha, and adopted by consensus).

Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

Chris Harris noted that due to other work commitments, he would not be able to continue serving as Chair of the Steering Committee. Chris proposed that Perri Benemelis, Manager for the Water Supply Program, Central Arizona Groundwater Replenishment District, who had been serving as Vice-Chair, be nominated as Chair and Jayne Harkins, Executive Director Colorado River Commission, be nominated as Vice-Chair. (Moved by Laura Simonek, seconded by Wade Noble, and adopted by consensus).

2. WORK PLAN AND BUDGET

FY16 Accomplishment: John Swett provided an overview of the FY16 accomplishments. He noted that the required program for FY16 was \$30,741,468. Reclamation proposed, and the Steering Committee approved, a budget of \$34,980,018. Actual accomplishment was less than the approved budget due to delays in the replacement of the water delivery canal at the Imperial Ponds Conservation Area, the replacement of the north-channel pumps at Yuma East Wetlands, and the start of construction at the Mohave Valley Conservation Area. Reclamation incurred a funding debit of \$666,351.00. John noted that \$1,104,052 had been contributed to the Remedial Measures fund. John noted the current balance in the land and water fund was \$15,400,000. John and the group managers presented highlights from their FY16 program (see the power point presentation posted to the website with the 4-26-17 meeting materials).

Proposed FY18 Program: John Swett indicated that based on a preliminary inflation rate of 1.410 the minimum required program funding for FY18 was \$31,251,240. He noted that Reclamation was proposing a program of \$33,496,740. This amount includes funding for Land and Water to secure the Dennis Underwood Conservation Area.

Draft FY18 Work Plan and Budget Review Schedule: John noted that the Work Group meeting to review the Draft Implementation Report, Fiscal Year 2018 Work Plan and Budget, Fiscal Year 2016 Accomplishment Report was scheduled May 10-11 in San Diego. Written comments should be sent to Laura Vecerina by May 5th. He noted that the Final Report will be posted to the website by June 21st.

3. PROGRAM UPDATES

Northern Mexican Gartersnake: John reviewed the status of adding the northern Mexican gartersnake to the program. He said that the Draft HCP Amendment, along with a Reclamation Best Management Practices Document and a draft Environmental Assessment, had been sent out to the Steering Committee for review and comments have been incorporated. The next step will be to send the revised Draft HCP Amendment to the USFWS for their informal review. If there are substantial comments from USFWS, we will schedule a call to discuss any changes in early June. John noted a letter from the Steering Committee Chair will be sent to all permittees to let them know that approval to submit the Draft HCP Amendment to the USFWS will be on the agenda for the 6/28 Steering Committee conference call.

Dennis Underwood Conservation Area: John provided an overview of the proposed Dennis Underwood Conservation Area. He indicated that it was located just south of the Pretty Water Conservation Area. The property is located within the Palo Verde Irrigation District and is owned by The Metropolitan Water District (MWD). MWD has identified 635 acres of active agricultural ground for inclusion in the LCR MSCP. John noted that after an appraisal for an easement to secure the property was completed, a land and water resolution would be brought to the Steering Committee for approval. Restoration of the site would include planting of both honey mesquite and cottonwood-willow land cover types.

Willow Beach National Fish Hatchery - Razorback Sucker Rearing Ich Outbreak: John provided an update on the Ich outbreak at the Willow Beach National Fish Hatchery. He noted that over 30,000 of LCR MSCP Fish succumbed to the outbreak. John noted that many were in older year age classes and that this will affect future LCR MSCP fish augmentation goals. John said that for FY17, Reclamation will redirect stocking efforts targeted for Lake Mohave to other river reaches. This will balance reach goals and still provide some fish for Lake Mohave genetic broodstock. John indicated that a number of strategies would be used to cope and rebuild. These include increasing larval collecting goals at Lake Mohave, expanding rearing capacity at Lake Mead Fish Hatchery, and trading bonytail rearing space at the Achhi Hanyo Native Fish Rearing Facility for more razorback sucker capacity. John noted that hatchery experts with LCR native fishes are convening to identify techniques, system enhancements and technologies that could reduce the likelihood and/or severity of additional outbreaks at Willow Beach and other facilities that rear fish for the LCR MSCP.

4. GENERAL

Genevieve Johnson, Coordinator for the Desert Landscape Conservation Cooperative, provided an overview on the role and function of the Landscape Conservation Cooperatives.

5. STEERING COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

Laura Vecerina noted that the Work Group meeting to review the Draft Implementation Report, Fiscal Year 2018 Work Plan and Budget, Fiscal Year 2016 Accomplishment Report was scheduled for May 10th and 11th in San Diego. Staff from the Restoration Group will be attending and presenting information on the Work Tasks for the Conservation Areas. A Steering Committee Conference Call is scheduled for June 28th.

6. SUMMARY AND ACTION ITEMS

The Steering Committee took action on two items.

7. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 12:32 p.m.